(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase reservation for Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering for increasing reservation for Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Representations have been received for providing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population percentage. In accordance with the 2001 Census, the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are 16.23% and 8.2% of the total population. The estimates of population of Other Backward Classes are not available.

Welfare schemes for distinguished aged personalities

1461. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare schemes for the aged personalities who have rendered remarkable service in the field of art, culture and sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No separate scheme for personalities in the field of art, culture and sports has been formulated.

(c) The welfare schemes are designed primarily to cover economically weaker sections of society.